

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27158 01 OF 02 170929Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5076

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27158

NESCO/AIDAC

PASS AID/PPC/IA/UN/ ATTN. LAUFER

GENEVA PASS US DEL TO COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNESCO, SHUM

SUBJECT: UNESCO'S REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL
INTEREST TO WOMEN PRESENTED TO COMMISSION ON
STATUS OF WOMEN.

REFERENCE: (A) UNECOSOC DOCUMENT E/CN.6/604 (B) LAUFER
TO SLEEPER TELECON, SEPTEMBER 13, 1976.

1. AS REQUESTED LN TELECON, VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS OF
DEVELOPMENT ATTACHE, U.S. PERMDEL UNESCO ON REFERENCED
UNESCO REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST
TO WOMEN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION ON STATUS OF
WOMEN.

2. REPORT IS GOOD SUMMARY OF WIDE VARIETY OF UNESCO
ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA IN ITS VARIOUS FIELDS OF
COMPETENCE.

(A) THERE IS AN IMPRESSIVE VARIETY AND NUMBER OF ACTI-
VITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

(B) REPORT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF AN INTEGRATED AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS HOL-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 27158 01 OF 02 170929Z

DING BACK IMPROVEMENTS IN STATUS OF WOMEN AND IN

THEIR PARTICIPATION IN BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT.

(C) UNESCO SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION NUMBER 16.1, APPROVED BY THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ADDRESSING NEEDS OF WOMEN. FYI THE U.S. WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PUTTING TOGETHER THIS RESOLUTION AND IS ROUNDING UP UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR ITS PASSAGE END FYI

(D) UNESCO SHOULD ALSO BE CONGRATULATED ON INCLUDING SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ON WOMEN IN ITS MEDIUM TERM PLAN (18 C/4 AND 19/C/4).

(E) IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT UNESCO BEGAN TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR THE EQUAL ACCESS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN TO EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE AS EARLY AS ITS 14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE AND INITIATED A DECADE LONG PROGRAM IN THIS AREA IN 1967.

3. HOWEVER, WHILE RECOGNIZING IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN, SOME DATING BACK TO 1967, ONE COULD ASK IF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR IMPACTS OF THESE ACTIVITIES ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN OR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT INDICATE.

(A) IT IS FELT THAT THE REPORT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE USEFUL IF IT HAD CONCENTRATED LESS ON DESCRIPTIONS OF THE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN, AND HAD CONCENTRATED MORE ON WHAT IMPACTS THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE HAD SUCH IMPACTS MIGHT USEFULLY HAVE INCLUDED ASSESSMENTS OF CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, CHANGES IN POLICIES, CHANGES IN PRACTICES (AS DIFFERENT FROM POLICIES OR INTENTIONS); CHANGES IN STATUS OF WOMEN, CHANGES IN ACHIEVING MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, ETC.

(B) OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION IN REPORTS OF THIS KIND WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORE CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF WHAT WENT WELL, WHAT WENT BADLY, AND WHAT SHORTFALLS, CONSTRAINTS AND OBSTACLES WERE ENCOUNTERED. SUCH ANALYSES MIGHT USEFULLY FOCUS ON SHORTFALLS, CONSTRAINTS AND OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OR WITHIN MEMBER STATES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 27158 01 OF 02 170929Z

4. A FURTHER GENERAL COMMENT IS THAT MOST OF ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN REPORT APPEAR TO BE IN AREA OF EDUCATION. THIS SECTOR IS IMPORTANT IN ADDRESSING NEEDS OF WOMEN. HOWEVER, UNESCO IS ONE AGENCY IN UN SYSTEM WITH A UNIQUE COMPOSITION OF AREAS OF COMPETENCE IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL SCIENCE, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS. ALTHOUGH EDUCATION IS OF OBVIOUS HIGH IMPORTANCE, IT WOULD BE HOPED THAT UNESCO MIGHT MOBILIZE ITS CONSIDER-

RABLE INTELLECTUAL AND PROGRAM RESOURCES IN OTHER
AREAS, AND ESPECIALLY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE, CULTURE AND

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27158 02 OF 02 170928Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 27158

COMMUNICATIONS TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS INVOLVING STATUS
OF WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT.

5. FYI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNESCO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD
AT ITS 97TH SESSION IN MAY 1975 EXAMINED RAPPOREUR'S
IN-DEPTH-REPORT ON UNESCO'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS
IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN. RAPPOREUR'S REPORT
WAS PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF U.S. PERMDEL
TO UNESCO UNDER ASSIGNMENT BY EXECUTIVE BOARD.

6. RAPPOREUR'S REPORT FOUND THAT UNESCO HAD CARRIED
OUT IMPRESSIVE VARIETY AND NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES DURING
PRIOR DECADE. HOWEVER SEVERAL SHORTFALLS WERE ALSO
IDENTIFIED. CERTAIN APPROACHES WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO
PROBLEMS AND SHORTFALLS INCLUDED FOLLOWING: (A) EM-
PHASIS HAD BEEN ON SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN WHICH
FORMED VERY SMALL PORTION OF OVERALL UNESCO PROGRAM. IT
FELT THAT GREATER IMPACT WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY ADDRESS-
ING A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR WOMEN IN ALL UNESCO
ACTIVITIES. (B) A CERTAIN COMPARTMENTALIZATION WAS
NOTED IN THE WAY PROJECTS WERE FORMULATED AND EXECUTED.

AN INTEGRATED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH WAS DISCUSSED, BUT IN PRACTICE EACH OF VARIOUS SECTORS AND DIVISIONS WITHIN UNESCO TENDED TO HAVE SEPARATE UNDERTAKINGS. ALSO, THERE WAS NO SYSTEMATIC ORGANIZATION.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 27158 02 OF 02 170928Z

NAL OR STRUCTURAL FOCUS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT AT A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL TO ASSURE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH. (C) A CERTAIN SCATTERATION OF ACTIVITIES WAS ALSO NOTED WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF SMALLISH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GROUPS AND COUNTRIES. IT WAS FELT THAT A CERTAIN CONCENTRATION, OR PIGGYBACKING OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED GREATER IMPACT.

7. SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY RAPPORTEUR FOR CONSIDERATION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING. THESE WERE MEANT TO OVERCOME SOME OF PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS FELT TO EXIST IN EARLIER EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

(A) GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO SENSITIZING DECISION MAKERS WITHIN MEMBER STATES, UN SECRETARIAT AND UN GOVERNING BODIES TO NEEDS AND PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

(J) SENSITIZE MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN.

(C) STRESS INTERSECTORAL APPROACHES FOR THIS AREA AND REFLECT THIS IN ORGANIZATIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN SECRETARIAT.

(D) SYSTEMATICALLY INCORPORATE IMPACT ANALYSES IN EACH REGULAR AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACTIVITY OF UNESCO TO DETERMINE LIKELY EFFECT ON IMPROVING STATUS OF WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT.

(E) CONSIDER SETTING UP AN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING STATUS OF WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT, PATTERNED POSSIBLY ON UNESCO'S USE OF UNISIST STEERING COMMITTEE OR INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE. THIS MEASURE MIGHT PROMOTE GREATER FOLLOW THROUGH OF POLICIES AND INTENTIONS, AND PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN'S AND MEN'S GROUPS ACTIVE IN IMPROVING STATUS OF WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT.

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